

P-421/CP-87-352 ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS, DENYING PETITION AND
CLOSING DOCKET

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Don Storm
Tom Burton
Marshall Johnson
Cynthia A. Kitlinski
Dee Knaak

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of the Petition of Certain
Subscribers in the Northfield Exchange for
Extended Area Service to the Minneapolis/St.
Paul Metropolitan Calling Area

ISSUE DATE: January 30, 1995

DOCKET NO. P-421/CP-87-352

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PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On December 14, 1993, the Commission issued its ORDER REQUIRING REVISED COST STUDIES AND PROPOSED RATES, adopting the Department's recommendations that the local exchange companies (LECs) involved in this matter be required to refile cost studies to reflect the lower, stipulated cost of money for USWC and the cost of money and access rates from the Vista rate case, Docket No. P-405/GR-93-2.

In January 1994, the LECs refiled their cost studies and proposed rates and on February 2, 1994, the Department submitted a recommendation that the companies refile using the lower stimulation factor of 4 that the Commission had recently approved for use in the settle-up filings in the Belle Plaine, Cologne, New Prague and Waconia EAS dockets and the pending Big Lake-Metropolitan Calling Area (MCA) EAS docket.

On March 23, 1994, the Commission issued its Order directing the use of the stimulation factor of 4 in the Northfield docket and requiring the refiling of cost studies and proposed rates.

Between April 25 and June 1, 1994, the LECs filed their revised cost studies and proposed rates to reflect the stimulation factor of 4.

On July 5, 1994, the Department submitted its comments to the Commission. No party submitted comments in response to the Department's report.

On September 2, 1994, the Commission issued its ORDER ESTABLISHING RATES FOR POLLING AND ADOPTING LOWER PRICED ALTERNATIVE. In this Order, the Commission adopted EAS rates for Northfield and directed the polling of Northfield subscribers to proceed.

Polling of the Northfield subscribers took place between November 15 and December 30, 1994.

On January 24, 1995, the Commission met to consider this matter.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

A. Certification of Polling Results

The results of the Northfield polling were as follows:

<u>Percent Voting</u>	<u>YES Votes</u>	<u>NO Votes</u>
60.4 percent	2,417	2,754

B. Commission Action

Because a majority responding to the Commission's poll voted against the EAS, the Northfield petition fails to meet the third and final EAS requirement: adequate subscriber support. Minn. Stat. § 237.161, subd. 1 (a) (2) (1992). Accordingly, the Commission will deny the petition and close this docket.

ORDER

1. The Commission hereby certifies the Northfield polling results as presented above.
2. USWC shall notify its Northfield customers of the polling results for their petitioning exchange.
3. Within 10 days of the Order, USWC shall file the proposed customer notices with Commission staff. The Company's notice shall be a bill insert included in the earliest possible billing cycle following approval by Commission staff.
4. The petition for EAS between Northfield and the MCA is denied and, following Staff approval of the customer notice required above, this docket shall be closed.
5. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)